

A4102

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — APPENDIX

June 7

Sour Taste of Cuban Tractor Deal

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

OF

HON. ROBERT H. MICHEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 1961

Mr. MICHEL. Mr. Speaker, under leave to extend my remarks in the RECORD, I include the following editorial from the Peoria (Ill.) Journal Star of May 31, 1961:

SOUR TASTE OF CUBAN TRACTOR DEAL

The tractors-for-Castro drive had a somewhat sour taste from the start, and the more facts that come out, the sourer it gets.

We now discover that President Kennedy was secretly backing the committee from the beginning, although officially silent.

Mr. Reuther of the UAW apparently took on this "private" chore for the President with enthusiasm. That sort of an arrangement has a slightly sour taste, too.

Now, there are signs of perhaps too much enthusiasm on the part of either Mr. Reuther or his underlings.

We have heard from a number of unhappy victims that a good deal of pressure is now being applied to those American workingmen who happen to come under Mr. Reuther's UAW jurisdiction to "contribute voluntarily" to this cause.

Nobody is carting around coin cans, though. The requests are quite specific. Each worker is being told to ante up \$10.

So, we first have the sour proposition of paying Castro blackmail. Secondly, we have the President of the United States as the central figure behind this proposition—originally on a "private" or a secret basis. That is a bit sour, too.

Finally, the climaxing sour note is the pressure applied to American workers to squeeze sizable contributions out of them—

that pressure applied by people with great power as union leaders.

The trilogy of sour notes combined creates two more spots that taste bad. This arrangement enables the President of the United States to carry forward a policy free from constitutional processes, "privately," which still involve basic policy of this Nation.

Finally, there is the sour suspicion that this basic process may well be reversed one day with Mr. Reuther calling the President and asking the President of the United States to do him a special favor.

The President cannot be half-public and half-private—least of all in making American foreign policy.

This is a very questionable way of doing business.

It is almost as if the President considers himself a "city slicker" and the people of the United States a bunch of rubes.

0494

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE

June 13

TRACTORS FOR FREEDOM—
PETITION

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, I present a petition signed by 214 citizens of Oley, Pa., relating to the proposal of tractors for freedom. I ask unanimous consent that the petition be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the petition was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, without the signatures attached as follows:

PETITION TO HALT TRACTORS FOR FREEDOM

As voters, taxpayers, and interested citizens of the United States of America, who still hold democracy as the best way of government, we are signing this petition to halt the tractors-for-freedom movement.

We ask our representatives in the Federal Government to carry out the wishes of the American people by exercising their duties as our representatives to halt this outrageous blackmail on the part of Castro and the Communists.

Signed by Lyda R. Strock, and 213 other citizens of Oley, Pa.